

Improving Graduation Rates Project (\$188,700). I would ban earmarks as we know them, but as long as these earmarks are available, I'm going to apply for them in an effort to pursue federal funding opportunities for my district. For non-defense projects in the current earmarking system, I work closely with local governments, civic organizations, non-profits and business development authorities to identify and prioritize projects important to local communities in Georgia's Eighth Congressional District (and sometimes elsewhere). I only request funds for projects authorized by law for federal funding and do not do so for private parties or entities. This project will support a comprehensive stay-in-school program, which includes the creation of a student achievement center staffed by teachers. This project is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it will help reduce the student dropout rate in Bibb County. Beneficiary: Bibb County Schools, 484 Mulberry Street, Macon, GA 31201.